

ARKANSAS PREFERENCE FOR RECYCLED PAPER CONTENT AND CERTIFICATION

A.C.A. of 1987, § 19-11-260, directs that the State of Arkansas will offer a preference for the purchase of recycled paper products.

"(c)(1) Whenever a bid is required, a preference for recycled paper products shall be exercised if the use of the products is technically feasible and price is competitive.

(2)(A) For the purpose of procurement of recycled paper products, 'competitive' means the bid price does not exceed the lowest qualified bid of a vendor offering paper products manufactured or produced from virgin material by ten percent (10%).

(B) An additional one percent (1%) preference shall be allowed for products containing the largest amount of postconsumer materials recovered within the state of Arkansas."

As a condition of award, the Office of State Procurement may require that the apparent low bidder provide confirmation of the specifications of the recycled paper(s) bid by providing a certified letter from the manufacturer (mill) confirming the paper's basis weight, brightness, opacity and postconsumer content.

Bidders requesting the additional one percent (1%) preference for the largest allowable percentage of postconsumer materials recovered from within the State of Arkansas must provide authentication in the form of a certificate from the deinking facility which processed the postconsumer material. This information must be substantiated by the mill manufacturing the paper used to fulfill this contract.

In accordance with the authority granted to the State Procurement Director by A.C.A. of 1991, § 19-11-203(31), the following definition of recycled paper applies:

"Recycled paper," as it applies to **coated stock**, shall mean any paper that contains not less than 10 percent (10%) postconsumer material by fiber weight; as it applies to **uncoated stock**, it shall mean any paper that contains not less than 20 percent (20%) postconsumer material by fiber weight.

Vendors requesting the one percent (1%) postconsumer material preference must indicate the percentage of postconsumer material recovered from within the State of Arkansas contained in the paper offered.

Any sheet offered that is found to contain excessive lint or foreign (nonpaper) elements will be rejected.

Bidders offering recycled paper must, upon receipt of a written request from the Office of State Procurement, make available samples for inspection within five working days.